

XXX.—Notes on *Longicorn Coleoptera* of the Group *Cerambycinae*, with Descriptions of new Genera and Species. By CHARLES J. GAHAN, M.A., Assistant in the Zoological Department, British Museum.

THE extreme difficulty which the systematic treatment of the group *Cerambycinae* (*Cerambycides* vrais, Lacord.) presents has been recognized by every entomologist who has attempted it. Our collections are, I think, still in too incomplete a state to enable this difficulty to be overcome. Without attempting to give a complete revision of the group, I have in the following paper made such notes upon genera and species as will, I hope, help the student in his determinations. I have corrected the synonymy of a good many species, having for this purpose consulted most of the types. To M. René Oberthür, of Rennes, I must in particular acknowledge my thanks, for having so kindly forwarded to me the types of those of Thomson's species which, from their descriptions, I was unable satisfactorily to make out. One of these—*Cleonice vestita*—is quite foreign to the group. It has been redescribed and figured by Mr. Pascoe under the name *Seuthes sericatus*, and undoubtedly belongs to the group *Glaucytnae*, in which Mr. Pascoe placed it.

TAUROTAGUS, Lacord.

Taurotagus subauratus, sp. n.

Antennis (σ) corpore plus sesqui-longioribus; capite supra sulco medio elongato impresso; prothoraco apice valde constricto, lateraliter et supra obtuse tuberculato et valde rugoso; elytris pube brunneo-aurata holosericea dense obtectis, apicibus angustim truncatis vel subrotundatis, et ad suturam breviter mucronatis.

Long. 44, lat. $12\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Hab. Abyssinia (*J. C. Bowring, Esq.*).

The unique specimen of this species was in a rather greasy condition; but after soaking in benzole it is seen to have, at least on the elytra, a beautiful golden-brown and rather dense pubescence, giving slight *moiré* reflexions. The head carries above a median longitudinal groove, commencing between the eyes and extending back to the occiput. The antennae are more than half as long again as the body, with the scape strongly rugose-punctate, and at the same time very minutely and closely punctulate; the third joint is much longer than

the scape and only slightly nodulose at the apex; the fifth joint is a little shorter than the third and longer than the fourth. The prothorax is strongly constricted and transversely grooved anteriorly, obtusely tubercled both at the sides and on the disk, and rather strongly and irregularly transversely wrinkled above. Prosternal process strongly arched, subvertical behind. Underside of the head crossed by two transverse grooves separated by a rather narrow ridge.

With antennæ rather long for the genus, the remaining characters of this species seem to point conclusively to its place in *Taurotagus*.

Taurotagus griseus, Guér.

The type of this species (a female specimen) was one of those so kindly sent to me by M. René Oberthür, but was too old and faded to admit of close comparison with other species. I believe, however, that I am right in referring to the species two male specimens—one, from Senegal, in the British Museum collection, the other, from Abyssinia, in Mr. Fry's collection. In these the antennæ are not more than three fourths of the length of the body, with the third joint only about equal in length to the scape. The prothorax is slightly uneven and without any distinct rugosity above. The elytra are about three and a half times as long as the prothorax and are rounded at the apex. The prosternal process, gradually rounded and declivous posteriorly, is feebly tubercled in the middle near its extremity.

The British Museum specimen is the *Hammaticherus cinerarius*, Buq., of Dejean's collection.

CÆLODON, Serv.

The *Prionus cinereus* of Olivier has been incorrectly quoted by Serville, Lacordaire, and others as the type of this genus. The *cinereus* of Olivier, as a reference to his description and figure will easily prove, is a species of *Criodion*, and the habitat he ascribed to it is without doubt correct. The type of *Cælodon*—an African species described by Serville—must therefore be written *C. cinereum*, Serv. As a synonym of this species we may add *C. servum*, White (*Hammaticherus*). White described his species from a female example of unknown locality. This specimen agrees with a female, of much smaller size, from Masai-land, and with a male from Abyssinia, both of which I have referred to *C. cinereum*, Serv.

The genus may be distinguished from *Taurotagus* by the length and obliquity of the mandibles in the male and the tubercle with which they are each furnished externally near the base. The legs, too, are more elongate and not so robust as in *Taurotagus*. Lacordaire gives as a further difference that the prosternal process in *Taurotagus* is truncate and vertical behind, in *Cœlodon* strongly arched. But in no species of *Taurotagus* that I have seen can the prosternal process be strictly said to be truncate behind. In some of the specimens of *Taurotagus brevipennis* (recently described by me in the 'Transactions of the Entomological Society') the prosternal process approaches this condition; but in others it is merely very strongly arched, and appears somewhat vertical behind. The same is probably the case with *Taurotagus Klugii* of Lacordaire. Specimens of *Hammaticherus Klugii*, Dup., MS., from Natal, while answering in every other respect to Lacordaire's description, disagree with it in having the prosternal process strongly arched and not truncate behind; and in some specimens the prosternal process bears a feeble median tubercle behind. The distinction therefore drawn from the form of the prosternum is of little or no value.

NEOCERAMBYX, Thoms.

Authors have not been in agreement as to the limits of this genus, some restricting it to one or two species, others including in it species that had been previously rejected and placed in *Pachydissus*, the result being that in our present catalogues we have closely allied species placed some in one genus and some in the other, and even the same species occurring in both genera under different names. To avoid this confusion, which makes the determination of species more difficult, I have brought together, under the generic name of *Æolesthes*, most of those species of *Neocerambyx* about the position of which there was a doubt.

The *Cantori* of Hope will be better placed in *Cerambyx*, Serv., than in *Neocerambyx*, where Lacordaire thought it should go. It has as a synonym *C. scabricollis*, Chev.

Pachydissus gigas, Thoms.,—the largest and one of the most beautiful species of the whole group—seems to me to be best placed in *Neocerambyx*. Unfortunately the male is still unknown. From three female specimens (including the type) I am able to supplement the characters given by Thomson.

Eyes rather wide apart above, with the vertex between

them marked by three deep longitudinal grooves—one median, not surpassing the eyes in front; the remaining two oblique, scarcely surpassing the eyes behind, and gradually approaching in front so as almost to meet below between the antennary tubers. The longitudinal smooth space on the middle of the pronotum extends between the anterior and posterior transverse grooves; in its anterior half it is not half as broad as in its posterior, and at its anterior extremity ends in two small diverging tubercles. The elytra are each rounded externally at the apex, cut in somewhat obliquely towards the suture, and there furnished with a very short spine. The anterior cotyloid cavities are slightly open on the outside.

Thomson's specimen is from Borneo; the two in the British Museum are one from Malacca, the other from Java.

ÆOLESTHES, gen. nov.

Head with a central plaque in front, with a median, more or less distinct carina occupying the interantennary sulcus in front, and extending behind almost to a level with the posterior border of the upper lobes of the eyes. At the termination of this carina the vertex bears a shallow foveolate impression. Antennæ in the male much longer than the body, with the third to fifth joints thickened at the apex, with the joints from about the fifth to the eighth usually furnished with a minute spine at their outer apical termination. The same joints in the female more distinctly spined externally, and each also spinosely or denticulately produced at its inner apical termination. Prothorax strongly rugose above, rounded or subangulate and unarmed at the sides in the middle. Elytra clothed with a rich silky pubescence giving *moiré* reflexions; apices truncate, with the angles spinose or dentate. Anterior cotyloid cavities very feebly or not at all angulate on the outside. Prosternal process usually subtruncate behind.

In addition to these characters may be mentioned a groove which crosses the underside of the head from the base of one cheek to that of the other. This groove (in the synopsis given below styled the *intergenal* groove) is usually very distinct, and its direction, whether straight or bowed backwards, is useful in separating some of the species.

The species—some of them common enough in collections—which I have comprised in this genus form a fairly compact group. They are to be recognized by the richness and lustre of their pubescence (with a sheen like that of shot silk) taken in connexion with their roughly wrinkled and unarmed

prothorax and their truncated elytra. *Trirachys*, Hope, is the most nearly allied genus, but in this the prothorax is furnished on each side with a conical spine; the third to fifth joints of the antennæ in the male are distinctly (the sixth minutely) spined at their outer apex, and the remaining joints are unarmed.

The species of the present genus have up to now been placed in either *Neocerambyx* or *Pachydissus*, and a good deal of confusion exists in their nomenclature. The following synopsis of their characters may prove useful:—

§ A. Prothorax strongly and more or less regularly transversely wrinkled. Disk usually without a central smooth space.

Antennæ distinctly spined in both sexes. Pronotum with two well-marked longitudinal slightly oblique impressions. Intermediate and posterior femora denticulately produced on each side at their apex

1. *Æ. aurifaber*, White.

Joints of the antennæ in the male almost without spines at their outer apical termination. Pronotum with two rather faint longitudinal impressions. Femora without teeth at their apex

2. *Æ. achilles*, Thoms.

Antennæ in the male without spines at the outer termination of the joints, with the scape very feebly rugose. Pronotum without longitudinal impressions on the disk or with but the faintest trace of them. Femora without teeth at the apex

3. *Æ. Marieæ*, Thoms.

§ B. Prothorax more or less irregularly wrinkled above. Usually with a central smooth space.

Form broad and robust. Intergenal groove directly transverse or very feebly bisinuate. Pronotum with two obliquely longitudinal impressions, limiting a central smooth space. Apices of elytra quadrispinose

4. *Æ. ampliata*, sp. n.

Intergenal groove strongly bowed backwards. Pronotum with two obliquely longitudinal impressions, limiting a central smooth space. Apices of the elytra spinose at the suture, dentate externally

5. *Æ. induta*, Newm.

As in the preceding, but with the apices of the elytra briefly quadrispinose

6. *Æ. textor*, Pasc.

Intergenal groove strongly bowed backwards. Pronotum without longitudinal impressions, but with a small transverse smooth space behind the middle. Antennæ (♂) less than twice the length of the body

7. *Æ. perplexa*, sp. n.

Intergenal groove directly transverse. Pronotum with two obliquely longitudinal impressions, limiting a central smooth space. Sides of prothorax in the male rounded 8. *Æ. velutina*, Thoms.

Intergenal groove directly transverse. Pronotum with two obliquely longitudinal impressions, the space between which is rugose and almost completely divided by a median longitudinal groove. Sides of the prothorax in both sexes subangulate in the middle 9. *Æ. sinensis*, sp. n.

Pronotum with two obliquely longitudinal impressions, inclosing a smooth space. Sides of prothorax subangulate in the middle. Elytra long compared with the anterior part of the body. Pubescence paler and less dense than usual. 10. *Æ. sarta*, Solsky.

1. *Æolesthes aurifaber*.

Hammaticherus aurifaber, White.

Neocerambyx æneas, Thoms.

Neocerambyx Lambii, Pasc.

Neocerambyx alexis, Pasc.

In the types of *æneas*, *Lambii*, and *alexis* I could find no structural differences by which any one of them might be distinguished from *aurifaber*. M. Thomson evidently mistook for *aurifaber* another and quite different species, and Mr. Pascoe has described under this name a specimen in which the ridges of the central space of the prothorax are less distinct than in typical examples. The species is from Borneo and Penang, and does not extend to the Duke of York Island, as stated by Mr. Bates, who seems to have shared in the general error concerning the species.

2. *Æolesthes achilles*.

Pachydissus achilles, Thoms.

Neocerambyx æneas, Pasc. (nec Thoms.), Longic. Malay. p. 510.

This is a larger species than *aurifaber*; the vertex of the head is without a distinct median carina, the longitudinal impressions of the pronotum are less distinct, and the femora are not toothed at the apex; but it is in other respects very like that species. In the specimen described by Mr. Pascoe under the name *N. æneas* the ridges on the central space of the prothorax are indistinct. The species is from Borneo.

3. *Æolesthes Mariae*.

Pachydissus Mariae, Thoms. Rev. Zool. 1878, p. 2.

This is very like the preceding, but may be distinguished by its greater size, the absence of longitudinal impressions from the pronotum, and the nearly smooth scape of the antennæ. In this, as in the last species, the median carina of the vertex loses its characteristic form, for, instead of being narrow, it is broad and flat and very little elevated; this character by itself is almost sufficient to distinguish either from *aurifaber*, in which the carina is sharp and well defined.

4. *Æolesthes ampliata*, sp. n.

Robusta; prothorace supra irregulariter fortiterque rugoso, spatio medio sulcis duobus obliquis limitato; elytris apice quadrispinosis; capite subtus sulco inter genas recto vel leviter bisinuato.

Long. ♂ 36, lat. 11 mm.

Hab. Duke of York Island.

In colour and style of pubescence resembles most *induta*, Newm., and *textor*, Pasc., but is broader, has the apices of the elytra distinctly spined at each of the angles, and has the intergenal groove of the underside of the head straight or at most very feebly bisinuate. This is the species recorded from the Duke of York Island by Mr. Bates under the name *Neocerambyx aurifaber*, White.

A single female in the British Museum collection; males and females in the collections of Messrs. Bates and Fry.

5. *Æolesthes induta*, Newm.

Hammaticherus indutus, Newm.

? *Cerambyx holosericeus*, Fabr.

This species occurs in Siam, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, the Philippine Islands, &c. I have found a small specimen in Dejean's collection ticketed *Hammaticherus holosericeus*, Oliv. But the *Cerambyx holosericeus* of Olivier is a very different species and belongs to another genus in this group.

6. *Æolesthes textor*.

Neocerambyx textor, Pasc.

Neocerambyx externus, Pasc.

? *Pachydissus ternatensis*, Fairm. Le Naturaliste, 1879, p. 70.

I am doubtful if this species can be regarded as distinct from *induta*. The differences between them are slight, and with a larger series might easily break down. M. Fair-

maire's description of *Pachydissus ternatensis* fits exactly the present species, but, as the locality Duke of York Island is given in addition to that of Ternate, I am inclined to think he has mixed up two species—*textor*, Pasc., and *ampliata*, described above.

7. *Æolesthes perplexa*, sp. n.

Antennis (♂) corpore duplo nec æqualibus; prothorace supra irregulariter rugoso, spatio parvo transverso levi pone medium.
Long. 24, lat. 7 mm.

Hab. Siam (*J. C. Bowring, Esq.*).

Intergenal groove distinctly bowed backwards. Antennæ not much more than half as long again as the body. Prothorax irregularly wrinkled above; without longitudinal impressions and with a small transverse smooth space behind the middle of the disk; sides of the prothorax slightly rounded, not at all angulate. Elytra with a rich silky pubescence having a coppery-brown lustre, with darker patches, which in their turn, when brought into certain lights, give bright reflexions; apices with the sutural angles spinose, the outer angles dentate. So closely in colour does the unique specimen of this species resemble Siamese specimens of *induta*, Newm., that at first sight it looks like a small example of the latter. The sculpture of the prothorax, however, on which there is not the slightest trace of longitudinal impressions, is sufficient to distinguish it. In all the specimens of *induta* that I have seen the longitudinal impressions are perfectly distinct, and the central smooth space is longer than broad. It is possible, however, that the unique type of the present species may be an incompletely developed or abnormal example of *induta*.

8. *Æolesthes velutina*.

Pachydissus velutinus, Thoms.

Pachydissus similis, Gahan, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 6, vol. v. p. 52.

In the typical example, sent me by M. René Oberthür, the derm is of a reddish-brown colour, which gives to the insect a lighter appearance than that of the majority of the specimens which I had included under the specific name *similis*, and which have a dark brown derm. The prothorax in this species is slightly rounded, but not angulate at the sides; it carries above two distinct longitudinal impressions, inclosing a central smooth space. This space is undivided, except by a very short median depression at its anterior termination.

I am at a loss therefore to explain the signification of the phrase "prothorax . . . medio biplagiatus" which occurs in Thomson's diagnosis. His expression "frons medio longitudinaliter sulcata" is somewhat ambiguous; it probably refers to the groove between the antennary tubers, but this groove is occupied posteriorly by a feeble median carina which extends back between the eyes. This is no doubt the species figured in the 'Indian Museum Notes' (vol. i. no. 2, pl. v. fig. 3) under the name *Neocerambyx holosericeus*, Fabr.

9. *Æolesthes sinensis*, sp. n.

Prothorace lateraliter in medio subangulato; dorso omnino intricato-rugoso, sulcis duobus obliquis impresso.
Long. 25-30 mm.

Hab. China (*J. C. Bowering, Esq.*).

This species is allied to *velutina* and somewhat closely resembles it; but the sides of the prothorax are somewhat angulate in the middle in both sexes. The median space of the pronotum inclosed between the two oblique impressions is nearly as rugose as the rest of the surface and is almost completely divided by a median longitudinal groove. The elytra are somewhat darker in colour and present a more ruffled appearance than in *velutina*.

10. *Æolesthes sarta*.

Pachydissus sartus, Solsky.

The figure accompanying Solsky's description of this species is inaccurate in making the elytra appear conjointly rounded at the apex. They are described as truncate and somewhat bispinose. If I am right in referring to it a specimen from the Himalayas that I have seen, the species is quite distinct. In this specimen, however, there is no median longitudinal impressed line on the prothorax, and the third and fifth joints of the antennæ are relatively a little longer than Solsky represents them to be. In other respects it agrees exactly with the description.

PLOCEDERUS, Thoms.

Plocederus basalis, sp. n.

= *Plocederus chloropterus*, Murray, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 4, vol. v. p. 436.

This species is not, as Murray thought, identical with the

Plocederus chloropterus of Chevrolat. Murray's description of it is very complete. It will be sufficient therefore to point out the differences between it and other allied and very similar species.

From *viridipennis*, Hope, and from *chloropterus*, Chevr., it is distinguished by the very close punctulation of the basal half or third of the elytra; from *chloropterus*, Chevr., it is further distinguished by the oblique lines or grooves forming a "crown-shaped" impression on the disk of the prothorax.

In *P. chloropterus*, Chevr., the prothorax is almost regularly transversely wrinkled above and the ridges are not interrupted by oblique impressions on the disk. The elytra, though more strongly punctulate towards the base, have not the punctures much more thickly spread on this region than towards the apex.

In *P. viridipennis*, Hope, the sculpturing of the prothorax is almost exactly like that of *basalis*; the oblique lines are, however, somewhat more distinct and form a W-shaped impression on the disk. The elytra may be described as somewhat *sparingly* punctulate, with the punctures evenly spread over the whole surface and diminishing in size to the apex. The prosternal process is provided posteriorly with a more or less distinct median tubercle.

It is difficult, from Hope's short diagnosis, to identify his species with certainty. The characters just given are taken from a species from Sierra Leone which Adam White had labelled *viridipennis*, Hope, and which agrees with Hope's description.

Plocederus gabonicus, sp. n.

Niger; elytris metallico-viridis, fusco tinctis; prothorace supra fortiter transversim rugoso, rugis anticis recte transversis, rugis pone medium sinuatis; elytris subtilissime griseo-pubescentibus, versus basin confertim punctulatis, versus apicem minutissime sat denseque punctulatis, apicibus truncatis, angulis dentatis; antennis (♀) corpore vix excedentibus, nigris (scapo badio excepto), articulis a quinto ad decimum apice interne denticulato-productis; pedibus femoribus (basi apiceque exceptis) rufo-testaceis, tibiis basi nigris; processu prosterni medio postice tuberculato.

Long. 30, lat. $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Hab. Gaboon (W. Africa).

The strong and almost quite regular transverse wrinkling of the prothorax uninterrupted by any oblique impressions on the disk, the very close punctulation of the basal part of the elytra, and the median tubercle to the prosternal process will

serve to distinguish this species from any of the similarly coloured and allied species.

Plocederus purpuripennis, sp. n.

♀. Niger; antennis pedibusque et abdomine rufescentibus, elytris metallico-purpurascentibus; prothorace supra transversim irregulariterque rugoso; elytris nitidis, minutissime subsparsumque punctulatis; processu prosterni postice in medio obsolete tuberculato.

Long. 26, lat. $8\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Hab. Natal.

Black, with the antennæ, legs, and abdomen reddish, the elytra purplish metallic and very glossy. Prothorax above transversely and somewhat irregularly wrinkled, without oblique impressions on the disk. Elytra very minutely and somewhat sparsely punctulate, with the punctures almost equal in size and pretty evenly spread over the whole surface; apices truncate, with the outer angles dentate.

The character of the punctuation of the elytra is alone almost sufficient to distinguish this from any of the allied species. The species seems to me to come nearest to *P. viridipennis*.

Plocederus melancholicus (Dupont, MS.), sp. n.

Hamaticherus fucatus, Dej. Cat., nec Thoms.

Piceo-fuscus, subtiliter cinereo-pubescens; capito margine clypei leviter sinuata; prothorace supra irregulariter minus fortiter rugoso, sulcis obliquis obsoletis impresso; antennis articulis a quarto ad decimum apice interne denticulato-productis.

Long. 25-35, lat. $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Hab. West Africa.

Head with the clypeal margin slightly sinuate; with the frontal plaque almost in the form of a transverse carina. Antennæ with the third joint unarmed; with the joints from the fourth to the tenth each produced at the inner apical termination into a denticulate process. Prothorax acutely spined at the sides, irregularly and not very strongly wrinkled above, with some very faint oblique impressions, marking off a sort of diamond-shaped central area. Elytra dark brown with a tint of red, clothed with a rather faint ashy pubescence; closely and minutely punctured, with the punctures somewhat unequal in size; apices truncate, with the sutural angles briefly spined, the external angles dentate.

This species resembles *P. denticornis*, Fabr.; but in the latter the elytra are brownish black without any reddish tint; the third and fourth joints of the antennæ are each furnished at their inner apex with a sharp and strong spine standing out at right angles, and the remaining joints up to the tenth are produced into sharp spine-like processes. *P. Eminii*, recently described by Mr. Waterhouse, has been compared by him with the present species.

Plocederus fucatus, Thoms.

Thomson was certainly in error in quoting this species as the *fucatus* of Dejean's collection. From his description I have been able to identify three specimens from the Gaboon as belonging to his species, and they are very distinct from the species just described. With a strongly wrinkled and somewhat densely pubescent prothorax, a rather dense yellowish-grey silky pubescence on the elytra, and a rather short and stout form, the species may be easily enough recognized. It is most nearly allied to *P. spinicornis*, Fabr., but may be distinguished by the denser pubescence of the prothorax and elytra. The third joint of the antennæ is moreover very feebly spined or almost unarmed at the apex, whereas in *spinicornis* this joint is distinctly spined at the apex.

Plocederus spinicornis, Fabr.

Lamia spinicornis, Fabr. Spec. Ins. tom. i. p. 224.

Cerambyx denticornis, Oliv. Ent. iv. no. 67, p. 60.

This species, described from specimens in the Banksian cabinet, has apparently been omitted from the Catalogue of Gemminger and Harold. Olivier altered the name for a reason—at the time perhaps valid enough, but now no longer good. It is well to mention that, though Olivier's description is that of Fabricius's species, his figure accompanying it represents a quite different species, which appears to me to be *Prospilus pilosicollis*, Thoms. *P. pubipennis*, White, is merely a slight variety of *P. spinicornis*, Fabr.

Plocederus consocius.

Cerambyx consocius, Pasc. (*Pachydissus* in Cat. Gemm. and Harold).

This species is very nearly related to *P. humeralis*, White, and the latter again to *P. pedestris*, White. In all three the prothorax is irregularly transversely wrinkled above and armed on each side with a rather short and somewhat blunt

spine. The elytra are finely and closely punctured, the punctures on the basal part running together to form a fine rugosity. In *P. pedestris* the elytra, as well as the body, are black, with a very delicate greyish pubescence; the legs and antennæ are rufous; the elytra are very closely punctulate up to the apex. *P. humeralis* is wholly reddish ferruginous, with the exception of the shoulders of the elytra, which are fuscous; it is clothed with a very delicate grey pubescence; the elytra are closely punctulate as far as the apex. *P. consocius* is of a somewhat dull ferruginous colour, with the lateral borders of the elytra somewhat fuscous; the punctulation of the elytra towards the apex is sparser and more minute than in the two preceding, and the apex of the elytra is more distinctly quadrispinose. These differences are perhaps little more than varietal. There are indeed in the British Museum collection two specimens from Southern India which seem to be intermediate in characters between the North-Indian *humeralis* and the Ceylonese *consocius*.

Ploccederus obesus.

Ploccederus obesus, Gahan, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 6, vol. v. p. 51.

Since describing this species I find that one completely resembling it had a short time before been figured in the 'Indian Museum Notes' (vol. i. no. 2, pl. v. fig. 4 *a* and *b*) as the *Ploccederus pedestris* of White. The latter species it cannot possibly be, and I am only in doubt whether the species figured is my *obesus* or the *ferrugineus* of Linnæus. Judging from the figure and the localities given I should say it is the former. The insect is stated to be injurious to timber-trees, and at page 91 of the 'Notes' some account of the habits of the larva is given. For the advantage of entomologists in India, and so that a correct determination of the species in question may be possible, I will supplement my short description of *Ploccederus obesus*, and point out how it differs from *P. pedestris*.

Length 27-45 millim., or from about 1-1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; width 9-15 millim.

Clothed with a short but rather dense fulvous-grey pubescence almost concealing the derm beneath it; the latter where rubbed is seen to be of a reddish chestnut or testaceous colour. The antennæ in the male are much longer than the body, ferruginous, with the intermediate joints usually tipped with black at the apex, with the scape finely rugose-punctate, with the remaining joints up to the tenth very minutely granulate, and with the fifth to tenth joints denticulately produced at their

inner apical termination. The antennæ in the female are as long as or a little longer than the body, with the third to tenth joints smooth and pubescent and with the fifth to tenth joints denticulately produced, as in the male. Prothorax irregularly transversely wrinkled above, thickly pubescent, with the anterior and posterior borders somewhat blackish; armed at the middle of each side with a strong, sharp, and slightly recurved spine. Elytra with a close fulvous-grey pubescence, with usually the sutural line and the extreme lateral margins black; very closely and regularly punctulate throughout; apices truncate, with the angles briefly spinose.

From *pedestris* this species can be readily distinguished not only by its size, colour, and dense pubescence, but more especially by the strong sharp spine with which each side of the prothorax is armed; the *rugæ* of the pronotum also are more numerous and more wavy in appearance.

Massicus Fryi, sp. n.

Pubes brevi fulvo-grisea sat dense obtectus; capite supra inter oculos sulco brevi longitudinali; antennis (σ) corpore duplo longioribus, scapo transversim rugoso et ad apicem intus subangulato, articulis tertio quartoque incrassatis; prothorace lateraliter in medio valde rotundato, supra irregulariter corrugato, antice et postice transversim sulcato; elytris subelongatis, pube pallidioris subcinerea, sub humeris subglabris, fuscis, apicibus truncatis, angulis suturalibus breviter spinosis; processu prosterni postice valde prominente et utrinque leviter tuberculato.

Long. 50, lat. $12\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Hab. Borneo. In the collection of Mr. Fry.

Amongst known species (*Cerambyx venustus*, Pasc.), seems most nearly allied to the present one. Though appearing to be congeneric, the differences between the two species are well marked. In *venustus* (σ) the scape of the antennæ is not angulate at the apex, but carries there a cicatrice limited by a short and not very sharp carina; the third joint is a little longer than the scape or fourth joint; the fifth to eighth joints each bear a small spine at their outer apical termination. The prothorax is only slightly rounded at the sides, and above it is almost regularly transversely wrinkled. In the present species the scape is slightly angulate at the apex on the inner and inferior face, carries no distinct carina, and is subequal in length to the third joint, the latter not being longer than the fourth; not one of the joints of the antennæ is spinose at the apex on the outer side, though the joints from the sixth to the tenth are, as in *venustus*, denticulately pro-

duced at their inner apex. The prothorax is fully rounded in the middle at the sides, is narrowed at the base, and still more at the apex; the whole space above between the anterior and posterior transverse grooves is covered with numerous rather short and irregular ridges*. Mr. Fry had placed this species in the genus *Massicus*, and I have no doubt that this is the best place for it.

[To be continued.]

XXXI.—*Descriptions of new Species of African Lycænidæ, chiefly from the Collections of Dr. Staudinger and Mr. Henley Grose Smith.* By W. F. KIRBY, F.L.S., F.E.S., &c.

A LARGE number of African Lycænidæ have been kindly sent over to Mr. H. Grose Smith by Dr. Staudinger to be figured in 'Rhopalocera Exotica,' several of which have already been published in that work or will appear immediately. By far the larger number, however, cannot be figured for some little time, and I therefore publish descriptions, pending the appearance of the figures. Nearly all belong to genera which have already been more or less fully treated of in the section of our work devoted to African Lycænidæ.

Genus ASLAUGA, gen. nov.

Wings short and broad, very densely scaled; anterior wings strongly curved outwards in the middle of the hind margin; posterior wings with a concavity on the inner margin at the anal angle. Anterior wings with the subcostal nervure five-branched, the first two branches emitted near together before the end of the cell and parallel, the other three short and emitted near the apex of the wing; the third and fourth parallel, running into the costa before the apex, the fifth running to the hind margin just below the apex.

Aslauga marginalis.

Exp. 1 inch.

Male.—Upperside tawny, with the hind margins and the costa of the anterior wings rather broadly brown.

* Since writing the above I have seen a second male specimen in the possession of Mr. Oliver Janson. In this the prothorax is much more regularly transversely wrinkled, and in that respect presents little difference from *venustus*, Pasc.